

Great things are happening in the solar photovoltaic world, but important advancements in the solar thermal world are also taking place. Recently concerns about the amount of water used in generation of electricity with solar-thermal power plants were raised; these concerns can be misleading as similar amounts of cool water are needed for coal or natural gas power plants. Regardless the solar-thermal industry has responded with an innovative dry-cooling process which could reduce the water consumed to almost nothing.

There are some that want a silver bullet to lay to rest our country's issues with foreign energy sources. While no such bullet exists, we can make real progress by encouraging development in all these promising technologies in parallel. Doing so can help States, like Washington State, achieve goals outlined in their renewable portfolio standards. On a larger scale we can move our entire country towards a clean energy source.

I hope that my colleagues here in Congress will help me in moving relevant bills swiftly through our legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CECIL MOORE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 13, 2010

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Mr. Cecil Moore, a constituent of mine who will be turning 90 on February 13th this year. Mr. Moore is a World War II Veteran and American hero and deserves our greatest praise.

He was so determined to serve our Nation, he hitch-hiked all the way from Sylacauga, Alabama, to Atlanta, Georgia, to enlist in the Marines in 1939. During World War II, he served most of his time in the Pacific and participated in the Marshall Islands campaign.

He eventually retired in 1965 at the rank of Colonel.

On February 13th, this hometown war hero will be celebrating his 90th birthday. All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply honored to be a part of celebrating this extraordinary veteran's 90th birthday celebration. Our best wishes and happy birthday to Mr. Cecil Moore.

IN HONOR OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT ADAM K. GINETT

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Technical Sergeant Adam K. Ginett, a 29-year-old from Knightdale, NC, who was killed on Tuesday, January 19 near Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. Ginett was assigned to the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. It was his second tour of duty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Ginett received a Bronze Star for his role in a firefight on his first tour in Afghanistan. He also served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to his grandfather, Jim Haslam, Sergeant Ginett's unit was walking toward a location where a cache of IEDs was thought to

be hidden. Another servicemember was killed in the incident and three were wounded.

In brave service to our Nation, Ginett opted for explosive ordnance duty after he graduated from boot camp. According to Ginett's mom, Christina Kazakavage of Coats, NC, he chose this dangerous work because it would mean that he would be able to directly save American lives by searching for and defusing bombs that were meant to take someone else's life. Sadly, last week that calling led to his own death from an IED in a field that he was working to make safe for others.

Though he had planned for a career in the military since he was in high school, Ginett had other interests, including artistic pursuits. He interned for four summers during high school with cartoonists at Walt Disney World in Florida, and he worked in a pottery studio in Knightdale during his last year at East Wake High School.

Ginett's body returned to North Carolina yesterday. A funeral mass will be held Friday, January 29 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay-Varina and Ginett will be buried with military honors in Raleigh Memorial Park. He is survived by his parents, James and Christina Kazakavage, and sister, Sarah Kazakavage, of Coats; paternal grandfather, Joe Kazakavage of Port St. Lucie, FL.; and maternal grandparents, James and Mary Haslam of Cary.

Madam Speaker, Adam Ginett is a true American hero whose selfless devotion to his fellow soldiers should be remembered. I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting this brave young soldier for his sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. I would like to extend my deepest condolence to Sergeant Ginett's family and to all who knew him. Our Nation lost a true hero and he will be missed.

ON INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2010, which will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/her medical expenses, the cost of replacement of the stolen items, or for pain and suffering, he/she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from such an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical ex-

penses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home. This is unacceptable!

The Veterans Pensions Protection Act will amend the U.S. Code to exempt the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. No veterans should be unable to pay their medical bills, unable to get the care they need, or in a situation where they could lose their home. After serving our country so valiantly, our veterans deserve no less than the very best benefits.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,308,886,504,801.94.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,670,460,758,508.14 so far this Congress.

Yesterday the Congressional Budget Office released their Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2010–2020. They estimate a deficit of \$1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 18—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1011, Recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 990, expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."